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**DUNDALK REPEAT SEX OFFENDER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR
POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Baltimore, Maryland - U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz sentenced Audey Frances Murphy, age 46, of Dundalk, Maryland, today to 10 years in prison followed by lifetime supervised release for possession of child pornography, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to his plea agreement, Murphy was sentenced to eight years in prison on January 31, 2001, after being convicted of second degree rape in state court involving the repeated sexual abuse of a minor female over a two year period, beginning when the victim was 11 years old. Murphy was released from custody in November of 2006 and was required to register as a sex offender. In October 2007, a family member reported that Murphy had unauthorized contact with minors, specifically, that Murphy had picked up his brother's minor children from school. Murphy was arrested on October 11, 2007, was found to be in violation of his parole and ordered to serve the balance of his original sentence for which he was imprisoned until January of 2009.

An unrelated child pornography investigation led Maryland State Police to the home of Murphy's mother on November 15, 2007. His mother confirmed that Murphy had lived in her upstairs bedroom, and that he had used the computers in both his room and in the den. On March 3, 2008, Maryland State Police searched the residence and seized the computers. Forensic analysis of the computer revealed 71 videos documenting the sexual abuse of children, including a video depicting bondage and bestiality with a pre-pubescent female.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov. Details about Maryland's program are available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/md/Safe-Childhood/index.html>.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the Maryland State Police and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for their investigation. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Solette A. Magnelli and Judson T. Mihok, who prosecuted the case.